

you are unable to afford one. Abortion is healthcare. The legal right to an abortion is based on access, and that should not be denied based on your income or insurance coverage.

Budgets are documents that represent our values, and that is why I am so proud to put forward a spending package that rejects Hyde, and also provides a directive to the VA to implement a comprehensive sexual assault and harassment policy, \$1.2 billion for maternal and child health, a repeal of the restrictive Helms amendment and global and domestic gag rules, and so much more.

This is a good day for women here and around the globe. I thank Chair DELAUNO and I thank the millions of activists who fought to make this moment a reality. We will continue our march for equity shoulder to shoulder with you.

CELEBRATING KANSAS COUNTY FAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of my favorite times of the year, county fair season in Kansas. This summer, all 63 counties in the big First District will host at least one county fair, featuring FFA and 4-H livestock shows, rodeos, demolition derbies, science demonstrations, fair food, and most importantly, people coming together to celebrate their communities.

County fairs are special because each one is unique to that county. Some county fairs rally volunteers to build barns for farmers in need, some hold premium livestock auctions for 4-H and FFA members, driving economic opportunity for those students and their futures.

Other fairs serve the world's most famous root beer floats or host family fun nights where young and old participate in sack races and play horseshoes. County fairs teach hard work, respect, and humility. They are emblematic of conservative values, and it is certainly where I learned them as a child.

Growing up in Quinter, Kansas, I attended the Gove County Fair every year with my family. I still remember the excitement we all had when our hard work culminated and my siblings and I entered our 4-H projects for review. Those summers taught us lessons we still use today. Last weekend, I found myself reliving the childhood excitement with my son, Austin, at the Riley and Wabaunsee County Fairs.

At the Riley County Fair, 4-H members Peyton and Genayla, showed us their market steers and purple ribbon show pigs. The joy and satisfaction of accomplishment on their faces was proof that county fairs serve a critical role in the lives of our youth.

At the Wabaunsee County Fair, I met with Alex Gnadt and the county fair board. We toured their brand new live-

stock facility, constructed by volunteers with donations from county agriculture businesses. Communities rally to support county fairs because they know the substantial impact they have on the entire community.

I plan to visit several more county fairs this summer, and I am grateful for communities who prioritize these time-honored traditions. If you attend a Big First county fair, you will see Kansas conservative values on full display: hard work, responsibility, generous giving, and positive attitudes.

You will see strong communities, strong leaders, and you will see a bright future. I am proud to be a product of the county fair, and I look forward to celebrating them for years to come.

BLOATEDBUS LEGISLATION

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the partisan appropriations bill House Democrats are forcing through Congress this week.

With a 50/50 split in the Senate, and a margin of just a few votes separating Democrats and Republicans in the House, American voters clearly want Congress to work together to produce a bipartisan spending plan. In response, Democrats have ignored the American people and produced one of the most partisan budgets in history. Their bloatedbus contains nearly \$600 billion, a funding increase of more than 21 percent from the last fiscal year.

This bill is a progressive wish list. It boosts funding for the White House by nearly 40 percent and the Vice President's office by 22 percent. It rewards the most liberal agencies like the EPA and IRS, with massive budget increases, only furthering their presence in our lives. It contains more than 1,500 earmarks, returning us to the corrupt practice of pork barrel spending.

It contains harmful regulations to Kansas farmers and ranchers by no longer exempting producers from greenhouse gas reporting requirements and reverting to old regulations that decrease meat processing capacity, further suppressing the price of live cattle.

The worst part of H.R. 4502, however, is the absence of the Hyde amendment, a traditionally bipartisan provision protecting taxpayers from forced financial complicity in elective abortions. In the bloatedbus, Democrats purposely omitted the Hyde amendment, and instead took the opportunity to voice their support for radical abortion policies.

I cannot support legislation that mortgages the future of our children and grandchildren. I oppose H.R. 4502, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING KATHERINE THOMAS

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, lastly, I rise today to recognize and thank Katherine Thomas for her tireless and selfless work for all Kansans.

In the last 8 years, Katherine has championed Kansas farmers and ranchers in the Halls of Congress, working

on food and agricultural issues for several Members of the Kansas congressional delegation.

In 2018, Katherine helped usher the farm bill to completion under the direction of Senator PAT ROBERTS, then Chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. Most recently, knowing how important agriculture was to me, Katherine helped establish my new congressional office and prioritize farmers and ranchers in the big First Congressional District.

I am proud to have had Katherine on my team, and I wish her the best of luck in her next adventure back in the Senate. Thank you, Katherine.

LEGISLATION TO INVEST IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, this week we are considering critical legislation to invest in America and Minnesotans. We are investing in childcare, education, healthcare, housing, and so many other basics that my district so desperately needs.

In the Fifth District alone, we secured over \$46 million in transportation and community project funding. That includes the skills training for clean energy careers, funding for updated sprinkler systems, a new healthcare clinic on Lake Street, a new park in Brooklyn Center, and so much more.

How we choose to invest our resources is a reflection of our priorities, and we, as House Democrats, are making our priorities clear: American jobs, opportunity, and working families.

BLOATEDBUS SPENDING BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition today to the bloatedbus spending bill that is being jammed through the House this week by the majority.

Instead of working to craft bipartisan legislation, Democrats have put forward appropriations bills that are based on unrealistic and irresponsible spending levels and include partisan policy provisions that will only delay its final passage.

Further, rather than holding a vote on each individual appropriations bill, the Speaker has lumped together seven separate spending bills that include nearly \$600 billion in discretionary spending, a 21 percent increase over just last year.

Twenty-one percent. That is almost as high as some of the price increases families in my district are seeing in their daily lives, thanks to the flood of deficit spending President Biden and Speaker PELOSI have forced through this Congress already.

This is not how the legislative process should work. And with inflation rates at a 13-year high, Madam Speaker, we simply cannot afford it.

And while this bill provides unprecedented increases for Democrats' domestic spending priorities, the left has decided to underfund two appropriations bills that are required by the Constitution: Homeland Security and National Defense. Worse yet, it reverses decades of historically bipartisan pro-life policies like the Hyde and Weldon amendments which have been bipartisan since 1976.

Further, it increases our dependence on China. It fails to keep us safe by hindering the work of Customs and Border Protection, and it abandons an all-of-the-above energy strategy. This is truly unacceptable.

Madam Speaker, this minibus needs to be sent back to the scrap yard, and if not, I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

HONORING CHIEF JOE SIMMONS

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 30-year career of one of Virginia's finest, Bridgewater Police Chief Joe Simmons.

Interestingly, this law enforcement veteran originally had aspirations of being a firefighter, but after being a dispatcher, jailer, and then a road deputy in the Rockingham County Sheriff's office, the SWAT team recruited him in 1996. By 1997, he joined the elite RUSH Drug Task Force, a mix of local and State officers, who I was proud to work with as an assistant Commonwealth's attorney, as well as Federal drug agents.

Simmons brought all this experience to the town of Bridgewater in the late 1990s, eventually rising to chief in 2011. Mayor Ted Flory said of Simmons: "He's done an amazing job. . . . The model of community policing . . . serves the citizens very well."

Chief Simmons says most police officers are good people who care about the citizens in their community. "You have to have empathy. It's not us against them," Simmons said, "You have to police with an open mind. It's customer service."

In the end, while Simmons never became the firefighter he once wanted to be, he had a successful career in public service, risking his life to protect and serve his fellow citizens.

I thank Chief Simmons for his service.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, since day one in Congress, bringing Federal resources to help the 14th District of Illinois thrive has been one of my top priorities.

As a new member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am so proud of how much we have accomplished in

just 7 short months. Just last week, I was pleased to announce that over \$10.5 million in Federal funding for community projects was included in the House's appropriations legislation.

These projects will improve the quality of life and economic opportunity in northern Illinois. In Joliet, Pingree Grove, and Richmond the resources will improve water infrastructure to give each community a reliable water source for years to come.

In McHenry, the resources will help expand access to higher education through dual credit programs at McHenry County College.

In Kendall County, the resources will help foster youth and their advocates by developing a permanent advocacy office for CASA of Kendall County.

These investments are critical, and I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress until these resources are seen and felt in our community.

HONORING PETE ROBINSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor my friend, Pete Robinson, of Columbus, Georgia, who passed away on July 1 at the age of 66.

Pete graduated from Emory University and Mercer University School of Law. Following graduation, he began his career in public service and commitment to improving his community. For a decade, beginning in 1985, Pete served in the Georgia General Assembly in the House of Representatives and Senate.

In the Georgia Senate, he served as Governor Zell Miller's floor leader for 2 years and became the only president pro tem to be nominated by both Republican and Democratic leaders.

Pete's decades of leadership in his community and the Georgia General Assembly played a significant role in making Georgia a better place for all who call it home, myself included.

I am thankful for the immense impact he had in Georgia, and I know his legacy will remain. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

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HONORING JESSE CREWS OF CHARLTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Jesse Crews of Folkston, Georgia, for his outstanding career with the Charlton County school system.

Jesse has dedicated his life to mentoring and inspiring the young minds of Charlton County. He joined the Charlton County school system in 1975 as an educator and coach. Over the past 46 years, Jesse has touched and inspired many lives in the Charlton

County community. He has earned numerous awards and honors for his 36 years of service as a basketball coach, including being named the Region 2A Athletic Director of the Year and the Class A Athletic Director of the Year.

Jesse has consistently devoted countless hours of his time, talents, and energy towards the betterment of his community. He has dedicated his life to educating and mentoring our future generation. I thank him for his years of service, and I wish him a happy retirement. His irreplaceable presence will be missed by all.

HONORING VICKIE HUDSON ON HER 100TH
BIRTHDAY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Vickie Hudson of Savannah, Georgia, for her 100th birthday on August 2.

Vickie graduated from Girard High School in 1938. Following graduation, she moved to Savannah and has been a pillar of the community. Vickie worked in the accounting department at Memorial Hospital in Savannah for 27 years. During her career in Savannah, she served many offices, including president of the Azalea Chapter of the American Business Women's Association where she was elected Woman of the Year in 1970.

Vickie was instrumental in forming the Savannah Independent Automobile Dealers Association Ladies Auxiliary and was elected as their first president.

Above all, she devoted 50 years of membership and leadership to the Wesley Oak Methodist Church. Everyone who knows Vickie recognizes her giving heart and love for her community.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize Vicky's 100th birthday and her lifetime of service, wisdom, and love.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING JAMES "JIMMY"
D. CROSBY, JR.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor former Garden City Fire Chief, Jimmy Crosby, Jr., of Garden City, Georgia, who passed away on July 5 at the age of 72.

Service to his community was an integral part of Jimmy's character. In addition to his almost five decades of service with the Garden City Fire Department, he also worked as a police officer and paramedic. Under his leadership as fire chief, Jimmy modernized Garden City's fire department to improve his beloved community.

His kindness and selflessness extended to every part of his life, including his time with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church where he served on the church council and was chairman of the property committee.

Everyone who knew Jimmy recognized his giving heart and love for his community. I am thankful for the immense impact Jimmy had on the Garden City community, and I know his legacy will remain.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.